
KNOWLEDGE ORGANIZATION

KO

Official Quarterly Journal of the International Society for Knowledge Organization

ISSN 0943 – 7444

International Journal devoted to Concept Theory, Classification, Indexing and Knowledge Representation

Contents

Douglas John Foskett, 1918-2004, by Nancy Williamson.....	1
Introducing Richard P. Smiraglia	3

Articles

Denner, Lise, and Marthinus S. van der Walt. The Organization of Electronic Information in Selected Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in South Africa.....	4
Van der Walt, Marthinus S. A Classification Scheme for the Organization of Electronic Documents in Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs)	26
Mai, Jens-Erik. Classification in Context: Relativity, Reality, and Representation.....	39
Zins, Chaim. Knowledge Organization: An Epistemological Perspective	49

Discussion

Hjørland, Birger, and Jeppe Nicolaisen. Scientific and Scholarly Classifications are not “Naïve”: A Comment to Begthol (2003)	55
Begthol, Clare. Response to Hjørland and Nicolaisen.....	62

Reports

Gnoli, Claudio. Knowledge Organization in Italy.....	64
Frâncu, Victoria. 14th National Conference of the Association of Librarians in Education - Romania (Asociatia Bibliotecarilor din Invatamant - Romania - ABIR)	66

Agenda for the 9th ISKO General Assembly, London, 15 July 2004	68
---	-----------

Index to Volume 30 (2003)	69
--	-----------

Contents page

Denner, Lize and Marthinus van der Walt. (2004). **The Organization of Electronic Information in Selected Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) in South Africa.** *Knowledge Organization*, 31(1). 4-25. 16 refs.

ABSTRACT: This article reports on an empirical investigation into the information needs and information organization practices of small business enterprises in South Africa. The purpose of the investigation was to determine what information should be taken into account when designing systems for organizing information in such businesses, and how these businesses actually organize their electronic documents. The investigation of the systems in use also presented the opportunity to gather business concepts that were used to construct a generic classification scheme for the purpose of information organization in small enterprises. Data were gathered from 24 small businesses located in three different provinces by means of personal interviews with owners/managers, guided by a questionnaire, and through on-site observation of the information organization systems used. The results of the survey show what information is regarded as critically important in small businesses, and give insight into the current situation with regard to information organization in the businesses. Recommendations are made for improving information organization in small businesses.

Van der Walt, Marthinus. (2004). **A Classification Scheme for the Organization of Electronic Documents in Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs).** *Knowledge Organization*, 31(1). 26-38. 17 refs.

ABSTRACT: This article proposes a generic classification scheme for the purpose of organizing electronic documents in business enterprises in the SMME sector. Data were gathered from literature on information organization, business information, competitive intelligence and information systems, as well as through an empirical study of information organization practices in a sample of 24 small businesses in three different provinces in South Africa. The concepts gathered from folder systems for documents, email and Internet favourites, augmented by concepts derived from the literature, were analyzed using the technique of facet analysis. Business processes feature prominently in the resultant scheme.

Mai, Jens-Erik. (2004). **Classification in Context: Relativity, Reality, and Representation.** *Knowledge Organization*, 31(1). 39-48. 49 refs.

ABSTRACT: This paper surveys classification research literature, discusses various classification theories, and shows that the focus has traditionally been on establishing a scientific foundation for classification research. This paper argues that a shift has taken place, and suggests that contemporary classification research focus on contextual information as the guide for the design and construction of classification schemes.

Zins, Chaim. (2004). **Knowledge Organization: An Epistemological Perspective.** *Knowledge Organization*, 31(1). 49-54. 11 refs.

ABSTRACT: This philosophical essay explores the epistemological foundations of knowledge organization and discusses implications for classification research. The study defines the concept of “knowledge,” distinguishes between subjective knowledge (i.e., knowledge as a thought in the individual’s mind) and objective knowledge (i.e., knowledge as an independent object), establishes the necessity of knowledge organization in the construction of knowledge and its key role in the creation, learning, and dissemination of knowledge, and concludes with implications for the development of classification schemes and knowledge maps.